Remarks

The Office Action mailed May 22, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-17, 19, and 20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-15, 17, 19, and 20 stand rejected. Claims 16 and 18 stand objected to. Claim 18 has been cancelled.

The objection to Claim 20, due to an informality, is respectfully traversed. Claim 20 has been amended to address the issue raised by the Examiner in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claim 20 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-15, 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hollis et al. (U.S. Patent 4,300,774) (hereinafter referred to as "Hollis") is respectfully traversed.

Hollis describes a removable sealing plug for spaced apart wall structures. The sealing plug (10) includes an axial shaft (12) having a pair of opposing ends (12A and 12B). The end (12A) includes a fastening means (14) and a sealing means (16). A second sealing means, such as a plug, (20) mates with the shaft (12). The plug (20) includes a fastening means (22), a sealing means (24), and a mating means (26) for mating with the shaft (12). A compressible spring (30) is coupled to a shaft mating means (18) and positioned between the outer surface of the mating means (18) and the inner surface of the plug (20). The spring (30) biases the mating means (18) and the plug mating means (26) together. In this position, the shaft (12) and the plug (20) are rotationally engaged such that rotational torque induced to the plug (20) is transferred to the shaft (12). The spring (30) also absorbs the axial and transverse movements of the shaft (12). In one embodiment, the borescope plug (10) also includes a probe (40) for sensing properties, such as temperature and pressure. Notably Hollis does not describe nor suggest a seal plate having an aperture sized to receive an adapter post therethrough, a first face, and an opposing second face, wherein the first face and the second face each comprise a seal groove circumscribing the aperture.

Claim 1 recites a method of mounting an instrument probe using an adapter post, wherein the method includes "providing a seal plate comprising an aperture sized to receive the adapter post therethrough, a first face, and a second opposing face, the first face and the second face each define a seal groove that substantially circumscribes the aperture, and wherein the first face seal groove is configured to receive at least a portion of at least one compression seal ring . . . coupling an attachment end of the adapter post to a first wall defined between a cavity and an annulus . . . coupling an opposite sealing end of the adapter post to a second wall defined between the annulus and an ambient area such that the adapter post is inserted through the seal plate and such that the at least one compression seal ring is engaged by the second wall . . . sealing the adapter post to compensate for a relative movement between the first wall and the second wall such that a sealing arrangement absorbs axial and radial movement . . . inserting the instrument probe at least partially within the adapter post to monitor a process parameter within the cavity."

Hollis does not describe nor suggest a method of mounting an instrument probe using an adapter post, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Hollis does not describe nor suggest a method including providing a seal plate comprising an aperture sized to receive an adapter post therethrough, a first face, and a second opposing face, wherein the first face and the second face each comprise a seal groove substantially circumscribing the aperture. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Hollis describes sealing holes in a gas turbine engine using an axial shaft coupled to a sealing plug having a spring.

Moreover, Claim 1 has been amended to include the same limitations indicated as being allowable in Claim 18. Specifically, Claim 18 recited a seal plate comprising a first and second face that each comprises a seal groove circumscribing an aperture in the seal plate. Applicants submit that Claim 1, as amended, is also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Hollis.

Claims 2-11 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-11 likewise are patentable over Hollis.

Claim 12 recites a mounting assembly for mounting an instrument probe within a cavity, wherein the mounting assembly comprises "an instrument probe comprising a probe head coupled to a probe sensor . . . an adapter post comprising an attachment end, a sealing end having a seal ring groove, and a hollow body extending therebetween, said body configured to receive said probe sensor at least partially therein . . . a seal plate comprising an aperture sized to receive said adapter post therethrough, a first face and a second opposing face, said first face and said second face each comprising a seal groove substantially circumscribing said aperture, said first face seal groove is configured to receive at least a portion of a compression seal ring that is positioned to engage a wall defining the cavity . . . a sealing arrangement extending substantially circumferentially around said adapter post, said sealing arrangement configured to absorb axial and radial movement."

Claim 12 has been amended to includes the limitations of former Claim 18, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 12 is submitted to be patentable over Hollis.

Claims 13-15, 17, and 19 depend from independent Claim 12. When the recitations of Claims 13-15, 17, and 19 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 12, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 13-15, 17, and 19 likewise are patentable over Hollis.

Claim 20 recites a mounting assembly for mounting a temperature probe to a gas turbine engine, wherein the temperature probe mounting assembly comprises "a temperature probe comprising a probe head coupled to a probe sensor extending from said probe head, said probe sensor comprising an elongate body and a damper coil wire helically-wound around at least a portion of said body . . . an adapter post comprising an attachment end configured to couple to the gas turbine engine, a sealing end comprising a circumferential seal groove configured to receive a seal ring partially therein to facilitate sealing contact between said sealing end and a wall, and a hollow body extending between said sealing end and said seal ring, said body sized to receive at least a portion of said probe sensor therein . . . a seal plate comprising an aperture sized to receive said adapter post therethrough, a first face, and an opposing second face, said first face and said second face each comprising a

circumferential seal groove circumscribing said aperture, said seal groove sized to receive at least a portion of a compression seal ring therein, said compression seal ring engaged by a wall of a fan casing positioned radially outwardly from the gas turbine engine . . . a sealing arrangement extending substantially circumferentially around said adapter post, said sealing arrangement configured to absorb axial and radial movement."

Hollis does not describe nor suggest a mounting assembly for mounting a temperature probe to a gas turbine engine, as recited in Claim 20. More specifically, Hollis does not describe nor suggest a mounting assembly including a seal plate including an aperture sized to receive an adapter post therethrough, a first face, and an opposing second face, wherein the first face and the second face each include a circumferential seal groove circumscribing the aperture. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Hollis describes sealing holes in a gas turbine engine using an axial shaft coupled to a sealing plug having a spring.

Moreover, Claim 20 has been amended to include the same limitations indicated as being allowable in Claim 18. Specifically, Claim 18 recited a seal plate comprising a first and second face that each comprises a seal groove circumscribing an aperture in the seal plate. Applicants submit that Claim 20, as amended, is also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 20 is submitted to be patentable over Hollis.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-15, 17, 19, and 20 be withdrawn.

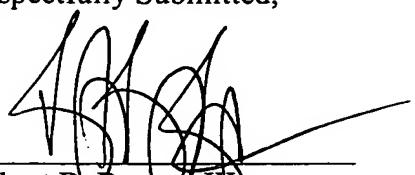
Claims 16 and 18 where indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 18 has been canceled. Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 12, which is submitted to be patentable over the prior art. When the recitations of Claim 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 12, Applicants submit that Claim 16 is likewise patentable over the prior art.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the objection to Claims 16 and 18 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert B. Reeser, III
Registration No. 45,548
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070